WORDBANK

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Terms in this set (736)

Confab	**Informal private conversation or discussion;** **they had a quick confab before the meeting.**
Dilapidated	In a state of disrepair or ruin due to age or neglect; the dilapidated house was an eyesore in the neighborhood.
Engender	Cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition); his policies engendered controversy and debate.
Vacillate	Alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; he vacillated between accepting and declining the offer.
Maudlin	Self-pityingly or tearfully sentimental; after a few drinks, he became maudlin and started reminiscing about the past.
Craven	Contemptibly lacking in courage; the craven soldier deserted his post at the first sign of danger.
Encumber	Restrict or burden (someone or something) in such a way that free action or movement is difficult; she was encumbered by the heavy luggage.
Imperious	Assuming power or authority without justification; his imperious demands alienated his colleagues.

Emendation	The process of making a revision or correction to a text; the editor's emendations improved the clarity of the article.
Bemoan	Express discontent or sorrow over something; they bemoaned the lack of funding for the project.
Anathema	Something or someone that one vehemently dislikes; racial prejudice was anathema to her.
Flaunt	Display (something) ostentatiously, especially in order to provoke envy or admiration; she flaunted her new designer handbag at the party.
Tepid	(Especially of a liquid) only slightly warm; the tea was tepid and not very enjoyable.
Accentuate	Make more noticeable or prominent; the bright scarf accentuated her dark eyes.
Austere	**Severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance**; the headmaster's austere demeanor intimidated the students.
Nascent	(Especially of a process or organization) just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential; the nascent startup showed promise in the tech industry.
Broach	Raise (a sensitive or difficult subject) for discussion; she broached the topic of her salary during the meeting.
Cantankerous	Bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative; the cantankerous old man refused to let the children retrieve their ball from his yard.
Exuberance	The quality of being full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness; his youthful exuberance was contagious.
Serendipitous	Occurring or discovered by chance in a happy or beneficial way; they met in a serendipitous encounter at the café.
Garrulous	Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters; the garrulous barber told stories throughout the haircut.

Impinge	Have an effect or impact, especially a negative one; the new regulations impinge on our freedom to choose.
Efficacious	Successful in producing a desired or intended result; the new medication proved highly efficacious in clinical trials.
Furore	An outbreak of public anger or excitement; the celebrity's controversial remarks caused a furore online.
Onerous	(Of a task or responsibility) involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty; he found the administrative duties increasingly onerous.
Bevy	A large group of people or things of a particular kind; a bevy of swans glided across the lake.
Belligerent	Hostile and aggressive; his belligerent attitude made negotiations difficult.
Flippant	Not showing a serious or respectful attitude; his flippant remarks during the meeting were inappropriate.
Gregarious	(Of a person) fond of company; sociable; she was a gregarious and outgoing individual who loved hosting parties.
Admonish	Warn or reprimand someone firmly; the teacher admonished the students for not completing their homework on time.
Propound	Put forward (an idea, theory, or point of view) for consideration or discussion; he propounded an interesting theory during the debate.
Crass	Lacking sensitivity, refinement, or intelligence; the crass comments made by the speaker offended the audience.
Prevailing	Existing at a particular time; current; the prevailing opinion among the experts is that the project will succeed.
Obviate	To remove (a need or difficulty); the new law obviates the need for additional paperwork.
Capricious	Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; her capricious nature made it difficult to predict her reactions.
Vindictive	Having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge; his vindictive actions led to the downfall of his opponent.
Virulent	Extremely severe or harmful in its effects; the virulent strain of the virus spread rapidly across the country.
Sacrosanct	Regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with; the tradition was considered sacrosanct by the community.

Egregious	Outstandingly bad; shocking; the egregious errors in the report were immediately corrected.
Superfluous	Unnecessary, especially through being more than enough; the superfluous details in the presentation distracted from the main point.
Preclude	To prevent from happening; make impossible; the heavy rain precluded any outdoor activities.
Cajole	To persuade someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery; she cajoled him into attending the party.
Assuage	To make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense; the letter assuaged the fears of the employees.
Obfuscate	To deliberately make something unclear or difficult to understand; the politician's speech served only to obfuscate the issue.
Urbane	(Of a person, especially a man) courteous and refined in manner; his urbane demeanor impressed the guests.
Redolent	Strongly reminiscent or suggestive of something; the old house was redolent of memories.
Implacable	Unable to be placated; relentless; the implacable enemy forces continued their advance.
Pensive	Engaged in serious thought; she had a pensive expression as she considered the proposal.
Embellish	To make (something) more attractive by the addition of decorative details; she embellished her story with colorful anecdotes.
Apprise	To inform or tell someone; he apprised his colleagues of the latest developments.
Ostentatious	Characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice; the ostentatious mansion stood out in the neighborhood.
Temerity	Excessive confidence or boldness; audacity; his temerity in challenging the decision surprised everyone.
Inimical	Tending to obstruct or harm; hostile; the inimical forces worked against the peace process.
Stentorian	(Of a person's voice) loud and powerful; the stentorian announcement could be heard across the field.
Extemporaneous	Spoken or done without preparation; impromptu; his extemporaneous speech was well-received by the audience.

Levity	The treatment of a serious matter with humor or lack of due respect; his levity during the meeting was inappropriate.
Calamitous	Involving calamity; catastrophic; the calamitous event left the community in shock.
Obdurate	Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action; the obdurate refusal to negotiate led to a stalemate.
Succour	Assistance and support in times of hardship and distress; the organization provided succour to the victims of the disaster.
Peremptory	(Especially of a person's manner or actions) insisting on immediate attention or obedience; the peremptory tone of his command left no room for discussion.
Ostensible	Apparent or professed; the ostensible reason for his absence was illness, but the real reason was a personal matter.
Flummox	To bewilder or confuse someone; the complex instructions flummoxed the new employees.
Convivial	Friendly, sociable, and marked by cheerful atmosphere; the convivial gathering lasted late into the night.
Surreptitious	Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of; they exchanged surreptitious glances during the meeting.
Respite	A short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant; the weekend provided a welcome respite from the hectic workweek.
Explicate	To analyze and develop (an idea or principle) in detail; the professor will explicate the theory in the next lecture.
Demure	Reserved, modest, or shy; her demure demeanor made her the perfect candidate for the role.
Brobdingnagian	Gigantic; of extraordinary size; the brobdingnagian statue dominated the town square.
Prescient	Having or showing knowledge of events before they take place; his prescient remarks about the market downturn proved accurate.
Irresolute	Uncertain; indecisive; she was irresolute about which career path to pursue.
Entreat	To ask someone earnestly or anxiously to do something; she entreated him to reconsider his decision.
Obsequious	Obedient or attentive to an excessive or servile degree; the obsequious assistant agreed with everything the boss said.

Desultory	Lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; the desultory conversation drifted from topic to topic.
Surmise	To suppose that something is true without having evidence to confirm it; he surmised that she was upset by her silence.
Penury	Extreme poverty; the family lived in penury after losing their home.
Vituperate	To blame or insult someone in strong or violent language; the coach vituperated the players for their poor performance.
Reproach	To address someone in such a way as to express disapproval or disappointment; she reproached him for his tardiness.
Mollify	To appease the anger or anxiety of someone; the manager's apology mollified the upset customer.
Enmity	The state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something; there was deep enmity between the two rival factions.
Insouciant	Showing a casual lack of concern; indifferent; his insouciant attitude towards the deadline worried his colleagues.
Queasy	Feeling nauseous; the rough seas made her feel queasy.
Sepulchral	Relating to a tomb or interment; gloomy; the sepulchral atmosphere of the old church was unsettling.
Reticent	Not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; she was reticent about her personal life.
Scurrilous	Making or spreading scandalous claims about someone with the intention of damaging their reputation; the scurrilous rumors were quickly debunked.
Pusillanimous	Showing a lack of courage or determination; timid; his pusillanimous response to the challenge disappointed his team.
Dissemble	To conceal one's true motives, feelings, or beliefs; she dissembled her true intentions behind a friendly smile.
Belie	To fail to give a true impression of something; his cheerful demeanor belied his underlying anxiety.
Surfeit	An excessive amount of something; a surfeit of food led to waste at the banquet.
Fastidious	Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail; she was fastidious in her research, leaving no stone unturned.

Accost	To approach and address someone boldly or aggressively; he was accosted by a stranger asking for directions.
Furtive	Attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; she cast a furtive glance at the clock during the meeting.
Inclement	(Of the weather) unpleasantly cold or wet; the inclement weather forced the cancellation of the outdoor event.
Inane	Silly or stupid; his inane comments during the meeting were unhelpful.
Alacrity	Brisk and cheerful readiness; she accepted the invitation with alacrity.
Droll	Curious or unusual in a way that provokes dry amusement; his droll sense of humor made everyone laugh.
Avarice	Extreme greed for wealth or material gain; his avarice led him to exploit his employees.
Complaisant	Willing to please others; obliging; she was always complaisant, going out of her way to help her colleagues.
Insipid	Lacking flavor, vigor, or interest; the soup was insipid and needed more seasoning.
Pertinacious	Holding firmly to an opinion or course of action; his pertinacious refusal to compromise frustrated the team.
Forestall	To prevent or obstruct by taking action ahead of time; they took steps to forestall the crisis.
Recalcitrant	Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude; the recalcitrant student refused to follow the rules.
Harangue	A lengthy and aggressive speech; he delivered a harangue about the importance of punctuality.
Eschew	To deliberately avoid using; he chose to eschew the use of plastic bags.
Deleterious	Causing harm or damage; the chemical had deleterious effects on the environment.
Intractable	Hard to control or deal with; the intractable problem required expert intervention.
Gormless	Lacking intelligence or common sense; his gormless behavior led to frequent mistakes.

Disenfranchised	Deprived of the rights of citizenship, especially the right to vote; many felt disenfranchised by the new laws.
Profligacy	Reckless extravagance or wastefulness; his profligacy led to financial ruin.
Prevaricate	To speak or act in an evasive way; she prevaricated when asked about her plans.
Rapacious	Aggressively greedy or grasping; the rapacious landlord raised the rent without notice.
Calumny	The making of false and defamatory statements about someone; the politician was the target of calumny during the campaign.
Shibboleth	A custom, principle, or belief distinguishing a particular class or group of people; the use of certain phrases became a shibboleth among the elite.
Timorous	Showing or suffering from nervousness, fear, or a lack of confidence; the timorous child hesitated to speak in front of the class.
Iconoclast	A person who attacks or criticizes cherished beliefs or institutions; the artist was known as an iconoclast for challenging traditional norms.
Somniferous	Inducing sleep; the somniferous lecture caused many students to nod off.
Interminable	Endless or apparently endless; the interminable wait at the airport was exhausting.
Capacious	Having a lot of space inside; roomy; the capacious suitcase held all her belongings.
Decrepitude	The state of being decrepit; the building's decrepitude was evident in its crumbling walls.
Cordiality	Warmth and friendliness; their cordiality made the guests feel welcome.
Caterwauling	Making a shrill howling or wailing noise; the caterwauling of the cats kept us awake all night.
Discomfit	To make someone feel confused or embarrassed; the tough question discomfited her unexpectedly.
Piquant	Having a pleasantly strong or spicy taste; the piquant salsa gave the taco a delightful kick.
Opulence	A display of great wealth; the ballroom's opulence was breathtaking in its grandeur.

Bellicose	Having or showing a desire to argue or fight; his bellicose remarks signaled he was ready for confrontation.
Obscenity	Obscene language or behaviour; the film was criticized for its utter obscenity.
Propensity	A tendency to behave in a particular way; she has a propensity for arriving late.
Inured	Accustomed to something unpleasant; after years in the field, he became inured to the harsh conditions.
Inscrutable	Impossible to understand or interpret; his expression was inscrutable throughout the meeting.
Blandish	To coax with flattery; she blandished her teacher into giving her an extra extension.
Insular	Narrow-minded or isolated; their insular outlook prevented them from embracing new ideas.
Taciturn	Habitually silent or uncommunicative; the taciturn guard spoke only when spoken to.
Discordant	Conflicting or disagreeing; the discordant notes jarred the otherwise calm melody.
Largesse	Generosity in giving; the billionaire's largesse funded the new hospital wing.
Verbose	Using more words than needed; his verbose explanation confused the audience more than it helped.
Disparaging	Expressing low opinion; her disparaging remarks about the project hurt everyone's morale.
Premonition	A strong feeling something will happen; she had a premonition of danger before boarding the flight.
Implacable	Impossible to placate or change; his implacable opposition continued despite the mediation.
Apoplectic	Extremely angry; she grew apoplectic when she discovered the mistake.
Auspicious	Showing signs that something is likely to be successful; it was an auspicious start to their partnership.
Secede	To officially leave a country or organization; several states threatened to secede from the union.
Impediment	Something that delays or stops the progress of something; the language barrier was a major impediment to communication.

Placid	Not easily excited or upset; the lake was placid at dawn.
Idiosyncratic	Unusual and specific to a person or thing; his idiosyncratic style made his art stand out.
Commensurate	Matching in size or importance; his salary was commensurate with his experience.
Eke	To make something last by using it carefully; they had to eke out their savings through the winter.
Contemptible	Deserving contempt; his contemptible behaviour shocked everyone.
Insolent	Showing rude or arrogant lack of respect; the reply was painfully insolent.
Laconic	Using few words; his laconic reply told us he was annoyed.
Fatuous	Silly and pointless; the comedian's jokes were amusing but fatuous.
Effrontery	Extreme boldness without shame; he had the effrontery to demand a refund after using the service.
Harangue	A long, aggressive speech; she delivered a harangue about office discipline.
Seditious	Intended to encourage people to oppose a government; the protest leaflet was declared seditious by authorities.
Imbue	To fill something or someone with a quality or feeling; her teacher's passion for literature imbued her with great enthusiasm.
Somnolent	Almost asleep or causing sleepiness; the somnolent lecture made it hard to stay awake.
Replete	Filled with or well supplied with something; the book is replete with fascinating historical anecdotes.
Rapturous	Expressing great pleasure or enthusiasm; the audience gave a rapturous applause after the performance.
Schadenfreude	Pleasure that you feel at someone else's misfortune; she couldn't suppress a little schadenfreude when the critic was mocked.
Perspicacious	Able to notice and understand things that are not obvious; his perspicacious observation cut straight to the heart of the matter.

Balderdash	Nonsense; what he said was pure balderdash and had no basis in fact.
Mealy-mouthed	Indirect and insincere; his mealy-mouthed apology did not sound genuine.
Salient	Most noticeable or important; the report's salient point was how urgent the changes were.
Lurid	Very vivid in colour, especially so as to create an unpleasantly harsh or unnatural effect; the tabloid's lurid headlines attracted many readers.
Rote	Learning or doing something by repetition rather than understanding; he learned the rules by rote rather than comprehension.
Peruse	To read something, especially in a thorough or careful way; she perused the contract before signing.
Neophyte	Someone new to a subject, skill or belief; the neophyte gardener was thrilled by her first flowers.
Adduce	To give reasons, proof, etc. in order to support an opinion or idea; the lawyer adduced several documents as evidence.
Litany	A long list of complaints, problems, or excuses; she recited a litany of reasons why she couldn't attend.
Genuflecting	Bending one knee to the ground, typically in worship or as a sign of respect; he was genuflecting before the altar during the ceremony.
Curt	Rudely brief or abrupt; his curt reply ended the conversation quickly.
Brusque	Abrupt or offhand in speech or manner; her brusque manner discouraged further questions.
Cherubic	Having a childlike innocence or plump prettiness; the baby's cherubic face charmed everyone.
Deluge	A severe flood or a great quantity of something arriving at the same time; the town was hit by a deluge of rain last night.
Parsimonious	Unwilling to spend money or use resources; the parsimonious landlord refused to repair the heating system.
Kismet	Destiny or fate; meeting her was pure kismet.
Trenchant	Sharply perceptive or keen; his trenchant analysis of the problem was impressive.

Disparate	Essentially different or distinct; the two cultures were disparate and difficult to reconcile.
Paunchy	Having a large belly; the paunchy man struggled to fit into the small chair.
Sprightly	Lively and full of energy; the sprightly old woman danced joyfully at the party.
Parochial	Having a limited or narrow outlook; his parochial views made it hard to work with him.
Affectation	Behavior that is artificial and designed to impress; her British accent was an affectation she adopted at school.
Inimical	Harmful or hostile; the chemicals proved inimical to the environment.
Deign	To do something that one considers to be beneath one's dignity; she did not deign to answer the rude question.
Rankle	To cause anger or irritation that persists; his unfair criticism continued to rankle him for weeks.
Boon	A thing that is helpful or beneficial; the new software proved to be a boon for productivity.
Guile	Clever but sometimes dishonest behavior that is used to deceive someone; he used guile to win the negotiations.
Disapprobation	Strong disapproval, typically on moral grounds; the community expressed disapprobation of the decision.
Hypercritical	Excessively and unreasonably critical; the teacher's hypercritical remarks discouraged the student.
Disparage	To speak of someone or something in a derogatory or belittling way; they disparaged his efforts unfairly.
Countenance	A person's face or facial expression; her calm countenance reassured the nervous crowd.
Castigate	To reprimand someone severely; the coach castigated the players for their poor performance.
Anodyne	Something that soothes or relieves pain; the medicine acted as an anodyne to her headache.
Denouement	The final part of a play or story where everything is explained or resolved; the novel's denouement surprised all readers.
Acerbic	Sharp and forthright in tone or taste; his acerbic comments hurt her feelings.

Envoy	A messenger or representative, especially on a diplomatic mission; the envoy delivered the peace proposal.
Deft	Demonstrating skill and cleverness; her deft handling of the situation impressed everyone.
Calumnious	Making false and defamatory statements; the article was full of calumnious accusations.
Machination	A secret plan or plot, especially one that is deceitful; the villain's machinations were uncovered just in time.
Polities	Form of government or organized society; ancient polities often had complex legal systems.
Stentorian	Extremely loud and powerful in sound; his stentorian voice filled the auditorium.
Compunction	A feeling of guilt or moral scruple that prevents or follows the doing of something bad; she felt compunction about lying to her friend.
Amiable	Having a friendly and pleasant manner; he was an amiable host who welcomed everyone warmly.
Obdurate	Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action; the obdurate defendant would not admit guilt.
Corpulent	Fat or obese; the corpulent man struggled to fit into the small chair.
Abdominous	Having a large belly or abdomen; the abdominous gentleman was the life of the party.
Writ large	To a great or exaggerated extent; the issues seen in the city are writ large across the whole country.
Infelicitous	Inappropriate or unsuitable; his infelicitous remarks caused discomfort in the meeting.
Punctilious	Showing great attention to detail or correct behavior; she was punctilious in following the ceremony's rules.
Smite	To strike with a firm blow; the hero smote the dragon with his sword.
Bucolic	Relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life; they enjoyed a bucolic retreat in the countryside.
Persona non grata	A person who is not accepted or welcome; after the scandal, he was declared persona non grata in the company.

Inculcation	The process of teaching or instilling ideas persistently; the inculcation of good manners began at an early age.
Synchronicity	The simultaneous occurrence of events that appear significantly related; their meeting was a remarkable example of synchronicity.
Déclassé	Having lost social status; after the scandal, he became déclassé in society.
Avarice	Extreme greed for wealth or material gain; his avarice knew no bounds.
Mettlesome	Full of spirit and courage; the mettlesome soldier faced the battle fearlessly.
Consternation	Feelings of anxiety or dismay; the sudden news caused consternation among the staff.
Meander	To follow a winding course or wander aimlessly; the river meandered through the valley.
Quasi	Seemingly or apparently but not really; the group formed a quasi-government during the crisis.
Antediluvian	Ridiculously old-fashioned; his antediluvian ideas were out of touch with modern times.
Precipitously	Done suddenly and without careful consideration; the stock market fell precipitously after the announcement.
Brobdingnagian	Of huge size; the mansion was a Brobdingnagian structure overlooking the sea.
Unctuous	Excessively flattering or insincere; his unctuous manner annoyed everyone at the meeting.
Industrious	Diligent and hardworking; she was an industrious student who never missed a deadline.
Abrogate	To repeal or do away with a law or agreement; the government decided to abrogate the outdated treaty.
Putrescent	Becoming rotten or decayed; the putrescent smell from the garbage was unbearable.
Solace	Comfort or consolation in a time of distress; she found solace in music after the loss.
Indigent	Poor or needy; the charity helps indigent families in the city.
Seditious	Inciting or causing people to rebel against authority; the politician was arrested for seditious speeches.

Conciliatory	Intended to placate or pacify; he made a conciliatory gesture to calm the angry crowd.
Effusive	Expressing feelings of gratitude or pleasure in an unrestrained way; she gave an effusive thanks for their help.
Frivolity	Lack of seriousness; the party was filled with laughter and frivolity.
Erudite	Having or showing great knowledge; the professor's erudite lecture impressed all the students.
Abstruse	Difficult to understand; the philosopher's theories were abstruse to most readers.
Gradation	A scale or series of successive changes; the artist used subtle gradation of colors in the painting.
Precocious	Having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual; the precocious child could read at age four.
Intransigent	Unwilling to change one's views; the union remained intransigent during the negotiations.
Injurious	Causing harm or damage; smoking is injurious to health.
Casuistry	The use of clever but unsound reasoning; his arguments were dismissed as mere casuistry.
Ephemeral	Lasting for a very short time; the beauty of the sunset was ephemeral.
Dialectical Thinking	A method of reasoning or argument that involves some sort of contradiction or opposing ideas; dialectical thinking helps in understanding complex problems by considering conflicting viewpoints.
Penury	Extreme poverty; the family lived in penury after losing their home.
Prevaricated	Speak or act in an evasive way; when asked about the mistake, he prevaricated instead of giving a direct answer.
Axiom	A statement or proposition that is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true; the axiom that "all men are created equal" underpins many legal systems.
Expostulate	Express strong disapproval or disagreement; she expostulated with him over his reckless decision.
Captious	Tending to find fault or raise petty objections; the captious critic was never satisfied with the performance.

Contemptuous	Showing contempt; scornful; his contemptuous attitude offended many of his colleagues.
Hermit	A person living in solitude as a religious discipline or by choice; the hermit lived alone in the mountains.
Quixotic	Exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical; his quixotic plan to save the world was admired but unlikely to succeed.
Recondite	Little known; abstruse or difficult to understand; the professor's lecture covered recondite aspects of quantum physics.
Limerence	The state of being infatuated or obsessed with another person; Her limerence was obvious, though she tried to hide it behind indifference
Expedient	convenient and practical, even if it may be improper or immoral; It was expedient to approve the deal quickly, even though it raised ethical concerns.
Wont to do	accustomed or inclined to do something; As he is wont to do, he greeted everyone with a cheerful smile.
fascimiles	exact copies or reproductions of something; The museum displayed facsimiles of the ancient manuscripts.
interloper	a person who becomes involved in a place or situation where they are not wanted or do not belong; He was treated as an interloper by the close-knit group.
Tentative	Not certain or fixed; provisional; her tentative plan could change at any time.
Misanthrope	A person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society; the old misanthrope lived alone outside town.
Desist	To stop doing something; the students were told to desist from shouting in class.
Lechery	Excessive or offensive sexual desire; his reputation suffered because of lechery.
Arcane	Understood by few; mysterious or secret; the professor explained the arcane rules of the ancient game.
Unregenerate	Not reforming or showing repentance; the unregenerate critic refused to apologize.
Morose	Sullen and ill-tempered; he became morose after hearing the bad news.
Assent	To express agreement; she nodded her assent to the proposal.

Vagrant	A person who wanders with no permanent home or job; the vagrant asked for food.
Spurious	Not genuine, false or fake; his spurious claims were quickly disproved.
Acquaint	To make someone aware of or familiar with; he sought to acquaint himself with the new software.
Curtail	To reduce or limit; they had to curtail their spending.
Pernicious	Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way; smoke has pernicious effects on health.
Eschew	To deliberately avoid; he chose to eschew all public discussion.
Wistful	Having a feeling of vague or regretful longing; she gave a wistful smile at the old photos.
Winsome	Attractive or appealing in a fresh, innocent way; her winsome manner charmed everyone.
Infelicitous	Inappropriate or poorly chosen; his infelicitous remark made everyone uncomfortable.
Complaisant	Willing to please or oblige; the complaisant assistant did every request without complaint.
Dismay	A sudden distress or disappointment; the news caused widespread dismay.
Daunt	To make someone feel intimidated; the steep climb did not daunt the hikers.
Blanched	Turned pale with shock or fear; she blanched at the sight of the accident.
Rancour	Bitter, long-lasting resentment; years of rancour followed their dispute.
Verisimilitude	The appearance of being true or real; the novel's verisimilitude made it feel like a real story.
Equanimity	Calmness and composure especially in difficult situations; she accepted the verdict with equanimity.
Repudiation	Rejection or refusal to accept something; his repudiation of the offer was unexpected.
Mediocrity	The quality of being average or ordinary; he was frustrated with mediocrity in his work.

Supplicate	To ask for something humbly or earnestly; they went to the king to supplicate for mercy.
Propitiate	To gain favor or appease someone; he tried to propitiate the angry deity with offerings.
Sojourn	A temporary stay; she enjoyed a brief sojourn in the countryside.
Adulation	Excessive praise or flattery; the actor enjoyed the adulation of his fans.
Diminution	The reduction or lessening of something; there was a gradual diminution in sales over the year.
Munificent	Extremely generous; the philanthropist made a munificent donation to the hospital.
Wretched	In a very unhappy or unfortunate state; the refugees lived in wretched conditions.
Conjecture	An opinion formed without sufficient evidence; his theory was based on mere conjecture.
Intonation	The rise and fall of the voice in speaking; her intonation suggested she was surprised.
Fractious	Easily irritated or unruly; the fractious child refused to sit still.
Panacea	A solution or remedy for all problems; technology is not a panacea for social issues.
Scintillating	Brilliantly clever or lively; the speaker gave a scintillating lecture on science.
Mores	The customs and conventions of a society; the mores of the community dictated proper behavior.
Oneiric	Relating to dreams; the film had a surreal, oneiric quality.
To the manner born	Naturally suited to a particular role or situation; she handled the party with ease, to the manner born.
Braggart	A person who boasts about achievements or possessions; the braggart could not stop talking about his car.
Cogent	Clear, logical, and convincing; her cogent argument persuaded the committee.
Quotidian	Ordinary or everyday; the quotidian routine felt monotonous after a week.

Omnicide	The destruction of all life; nuclear war could lead to global omnicide.
Portend	To be a sign or warning of something; dark clouds portend a storm.
Biannual	Occurring twice a year; the biannual festival attracted tourists in spring and autumn.
Biennial	Occurring every two years; the biennial conference brought together experts from around the world.
Menagerie	A collection of wild animals kept in captivity; the zoo had a menagerie of exotic species.
Abject	Extremely bad or severe; they lived in abject poverty.
Doleful	Expressing sorrow; her doleful expression reflected her grief.
Dour	Stern, gloomy, or severe; the teacher's dour demeanor intimidated the students.
Ombudsman	An official appointed to investigate complaints against organizations; the ombudsman reviewed the company's practices.
Disrepute	The state of being held in low esteem; the scandal brought the politician into disrepute.
Iconoclast	A person who attacks or criticizes cherished beliefs or institutions; the artist was an iconoclast challenging traditional norms.
Interminable	Endless or seemingly endless; the lecture felt interminable to the students.
Feckless	Lacking initiative or strength of character; his feckless attitude frustrated his colleagues.
Disconsolate	Extremely unhappy or unable to be comforted; she was disconsolate after losing her pet.
Autodidact	A person who teaches themselves rather than being formally educated; the scientist was an autodidact with no formal training.
Gauche	Lacking social grace; his gauche behavior embarrassed everyone at the dinner.
Imperceptible	So slight or subtle as not to be perceived; the change in temperature was imperceptible.

Doesn't wash	Fails to convince or make sense; his explanation doesn't wash with the manager.
Scintilla	A tiny trace or spark of a feeling or quality; there wasn't a scintilla of doubt in her mind.
Impropriety	Failure to observe standards of honesty or modesty; the official was accused of impropriety.
Interdenominational	Involving or relating to more than one religious denomination; the school held interdenominational services for all students.
Nondescript	Lacking distinctive or interesting features; the building was nondescript and easy to overlook.
Neophyte	A person who is new to a subject or activity; the neophyte gardener asked many questions.
Primordial	Existing from the beginning of time; primordial forests covered the land before human settlement.
Bereft	Deprived of or lacking something; he felt bereft of hope after the news.
Dearth	A scarcity or lack of something; there was a dearth of available jobs in the area.
Idiolect	The speech habits peculiar to a particular person; his idiolect made him easily recognizable on the phone.
Tendentious	Promoting a particular cause, especially a controversial one; the article was tendentious and biased.
Broadside	A strong verbal or written attack; the critic published a broadside against the film.
Unicameral	Having a single legislative chamber; the country adopted a unicameral parliament.
Vitiated	Spoiled or impaired the quality or effectiveness of something; the scandal vitiated public trust in the government.
Vapid	Offering nothing stimulating or challenging; the conversation was vapid and dull.
Cibophobia	Fear of food; her cibophobia made mealtimes stressful.
Lilt	A cheerful or rhythmic manner of speaking or song; she spoke with a musical lilt.
Paint Palette	A board on which an artist mixes paints; she selected colors carefully on her paint palette before beginning the portrait.

Salubrious	Health-giving or beneficial to one's health; the mountain air was salubrious, improving the patients' recovery.
Foibles	Minor weaknesses or eccentricities in character; understanding a friend's foibles can strengthen relationships.
Erudition	Extensive knowledge acquired through reading and study; his erudition on classical philosophy impressed the students.
Immiserates	To make extremely poor or impoverished; unfair taxation immiserates communities over generations.
Lofty	Elevated in character or spirit; she set a lofty goal to improve literacy in her city.
Convalescence	The gradual recovery of health after illness; his convalescence was aided by daily walks and proper diet.
Wearisome	Causing fatigue or boredom; the lengthy lecture was wearisome but contained valuable insights.
Drudging	Performing dull, menial work; he spent hours drudging through archival documents for historical research.
Enervating	Causing one to feel drained of energy; the heat was enervating, yet the students persisted in their experiments.
Woebegone	Showing deep distress or sorrow; the refugees looked woebegone after losing their homes.
Grimace	An expression of pain, disgust, or disapproval; he grimaced at the harsh criticism but continued improving.
Insuperable	Impossible to overcome; the mathematician faced an insuperable problem that later inspired new theories.
Tawdry	Showy but cheap or of poor quality; the marketplace was full of tawdry jewelry, yet it taught about local tastes.
Sequestered	Isolated or hidden away; the writer worked in a sequestered cabin to finish his novel.
Pertinent	Relevant or applicable to a particular matter; her question was pertinent to understanding the experiment's results.
Numinous	Having a spiritual or mysterious quality; the cathedral inspired a numinous awe in visitors.
Presumptuous	Overstepping due bounds; it was presumptuous to correct the professor without being asked.
Unexplainable	Impossible to account for; the sudden aurora over the city was unexplainable yet breathtaking.

Palatial	Resembling a palace in grandeur; the palatial library housed rare manuscripts.
Errant	Deviating from the proper course; the errant knight sought justice beyond his kingdom.
Quaff	To drink heartily; he quaffed the herbal tea and felt revitalized.
Probity	Integrity and honesty; her probity in handling donations inspired widespread trust.
Avuncular	Kind and friendly toward a younger or less experienced person; his avuncular guidance shaped the apprentices' careers.
Ennoble	To elevate in dignity or honor; acts of selflessness ennoble the individual and inspire others.
Expound	To explain or present in detail; she expounded the principles of ethics clearly to her students.
Dilettante	A person who cultivates an area of interest without serious commitment; he was a dilettante in painting, exploring styles without mastery.
Turpitude	Depravity or wickedness; the dictator's actions revealed moral turpitude that shocked the world.
Occlude	To block or obstruct; the dentist explained how plaque can occlude the airways in gum disease.
Cavil	To raise trivial objections; she caviled at minor wording in the otherwise excellent essay.
Acrimonious	Angry and bitter in tone or behavior; the debate grew acrimonious, yet it clarified the key ethical issues.
Detritus	Waste or debris resulting from decay; the beach was littered with detritus, highlighting the need for environmental care.
Posterity	Future generations; laws were designed to protect natural resources for posterity.
Similitude	The quality of being similar; the similitude between the two artworks suggested a shared influence.
Beset	To be troubled or threatened persistently; the small company was beset by financial difficulties but persevered.
Untoward	Unexpected and inappropriate; his untoward remarks disrupted the otherwise professional discussion.

Niagara	A large or overwhelming flow (figurative or literal); the student faced a Niagara of assignments before finals.
Urbane	Polished, courteous, and sophisticated; his urbane manners impressed the international guests.
Suffuse	To spread over or through; a warm glow suffused the room as the sun set.
Fallow	Plowed but left unseeded; the farmer left the field fallow to restore soil fertility.
Impetuous	Acting quickly without thought or care; his impetuous decision led to unexpected consequences.
Scrupulous	Careful to behave ethically or meticulously; she was scrupulous in citing all her sources.
Inauspicious	Not conducive to success; the rainy start made the festival seem inauspicious.
Convoke	To call together for a meeting; the committee was convoked to address urgent matters.
Impertinence	Rudeness or lack of respect; the student's impertinence earned a stern warning.
Retrograde	Moving backward or reverting to an earlier condition; the policy changes were a retrograde step in education reform.
Inexorably	Impossible to stop or prevent; climate change is progressing inexorably without immediate action.
Mealy-mouthed	Indirect or lacking forthrightness; the politician's mealy-mouthed response frustrated the audience.
Browbeat	To intimidate or bully; the manager browbeat employees into meeting unrealistic targets.
Blether	To talk nonsense or chatter; they blethered about trivial matters during the long journey.
Blather	To talk long-windedly without making much sense; he blathered about politics, confusing everyone.
Prate	To talk foolishly or tediously about something; she prated on about her vacation endlessly.
Grotesquerie	A comically or repulsively ugly or distorted feature; the artist's painting embraced grotesquerie to critique society.
Gallows humour	Humour in a grim or hopeless situation; the soldiers used gallows humour to cope with the battlefield.

Pilloried	Publicly criticized or ridiculed; the corrupt official was pilloried in the press.
Animus	Strong hostility or ill feeling; the animus between the rivals was evident in every debate.
Codify	To arrange laws or rules systematically; the committee codified the regulations for clarity.
Tremulous	Shaking or quivering slightly; her tremulous voice revealed her nervousness before the speech.
Undulate	Move with a smooth, wavelike motion; the fields of wheat undulated in the wind.
In lieu	In place of; she accepted a gift card in lieu of a refund.
Sobriquet	A nickname; "The Iron Lady" was Margaret Thatcher's famous sobriquet.
Vicissitudes	Changes of circumstances, often unpleasant; they endured the vicissitudes of fortune with resilience.
Visage	A person's face or facial expression; his solemn visage reflected deep thought.
Veneer	A thin, superficial layer masking something; the kind veneer hid his ruthless ambition.
Venal	Corrupt or susceptible to bribery; the venal official accepted money to overlook violations.
Vouchsafing	Granting or giving something in a gracious or condescending manner; the mentor vouchsafed her advice to young artists.
Voracious	Having a huge appetite or enthusiasm; he was a voracious reader of history.
Pomp	Ceremony and splendid display; the coronation proceeded with great pomp.
Remittance	A sum of money sent, especially as payment; she sent a remittance to support her family abroad.
Transient	Lasting only a short time; the transient beauty of a sunset inspires reflection.
Serenity	The state of being calm and peaceful; meditation helped him attain serenity of mind.
Inundated	Overwhelmed with things or people; the office was inundated with requests for help.

Slake	To satisfy or quench; he slaked his curiosity by visiting the library archives.
Zugzwang	A situation where every possible action is disadvantageous; the chess player found himself in zugzwang.
Extricate	To free from difficulty or entanglement; they worked to extricate the vehicle from the mud.
Ornery	Bad-tempered or difficult to deal with; the ornery horse refused to be led.
Indemnify	Compensate for harm or loss; the insurance company indemnified the victims after the flood.
Anthemic	Having qualities of an anthem; the song's anthemic chorus inspired the crowd.
Loquacious	Tending to talk a great deal; the loquacious professor made lectures lively but sometimes lengthy.
Fortify	To strengthen or build up; the walls were fortified to resist attack.
Hovel	A small, squalid dwelling; the artist lived in a hovel but created masterpieces there.
Pastiche	An artistic work that imitates others; the film was a pastiche of classic noir cinema.
Reprobate	An unprincipled or morally corrupt person; the reprobate gambler squandered his family's inheritance.
Bul	To lie or tell an untruth; he bulled his way through the story, hoping no one would notice.
Hysterical	Emotionally uncontrolled; the crowd became hysterical at the unexpected announcement.
Absolution	Formal release from guilt or punishment; the priest granted absolution to the penitent.
Concupiscent	Having strong sexual desire; the character's concupiscent impulses drove much of the plot.
Enthused	Show excitement or interest; the teacher enthused about the possibilities of science.
Bifurcat	To divide into two branches; the river bifurcates before entering the valley.
Canary in the coal mine	A warning of potential danger; the early economic indicators were a canary in the coal mine.

Fervent	Showing passionate intensity; her fervent advocacy changed public opinion.
Ghoulish	Morbidly interested in death or disaster; he had a ghoulish fascination with true crime stories.
Perforate	To make a hole or series of holes; the pamphlet was perforated for easy tearing.
Incommensurable	Impossible to measure or compare; the values of art and science are often incommensurable.
Inveterate	Long-established and unlikely to change; he was an inveterate traveler who never stayed in one place long.
Golden Parachute	A large financial compensation given to executives after leaving a company; the CEO received a golden parachute despite poor performance.
Apoplectic	Extremely angry; she was apoplectic when she discovered the fraud.
Interiority	The quality of being inward-focused or reflective; meditation cultivates interiority and self-awareness.
Lithe	Flexible and graceful; the dancer's lithe movements captivated the audience.
Riposte	A quick, clever reply; his riposte silenced the critic.
Resigned	Accepting something unpleasant without protest; he was resigned to the delay.
Relented	To soften in attitude or yield; the teacher relented and extended the deadline.
Implicate	To show someone is involved in wrongdoing; evidence implicated him in the theft.
Sublimate	To redirect impulses into a more acceptable form; she sublimated her anger into painting.
Lugubrious	Looking or sounding sad and dismal; his lugubrious expression reflected the loss of the manuscript.
Epicaricacy	Pleasure derived from another's misfortune; her epicaricacy was evident when the rival failed.
Exultant	Triumphantly happy; the team was exultant after winning the championship.
Corybantic	Wildly excited or frenzied; the corybantic crowd cheered the performers wildly.

Prodigious	Remarkably great in size or degree; he had a prodigious memory for historical dates.
Conflate	To combine two or more things into one; the author conflated myths from different cultures.
Equivocate	To speak ambiguously to avoid commitment; the politician equivocated on the controversial issue.
Equate	To consider one thing equal to another; it is wrong to equate wealth with happiness.
Affixing	To attach or fasten; she was affixing stamps to the envelopes for mailing.
Hors d'oeuvres	Small dishes served before the main meal; the party featured an array of hors d'oeuvres.
Deductive reasoning	Reasoning from general principles to a specific conclusion; detectives use deductive reasoning to solve cases.
Reductive reasoning	Simplifying complex ideas to basic components; reductive reasoning can help understand large systems but risk oversimplification.
Delineate	To describe or portray precisely; the architect delineated the building's layout in detail.
Legerdemain	Skillful use of hands or trickery; the magician's legerdemain amazed the audience.
Bailiwick	A person's area of expertise or authority; medieval law was within the bailiwick of the local lord.
Ululate	To howl or wail loudly; mourners ululated at the funeral to express grief.
Unadorned	Plain or simple; the room was unadorned but elegant.
Peripatetic	Traveling from place to place; the peripatetic scholar lectured across Europe.
Itinerant	Traveling for work or duty; itinerant merchants brought goods to rural villages.
Standard Boilerplate	Text or procedures used routinely without modification; contracts often include standard boilerplate clauses.
Tenuous	Very weak or slight; the connection between the events was tenuous but worth investigating.
Know my onions	To be very knowledgeable about a subject; she really knows her onions in classical literature.

Botched	Carried out badly or clumsily; the repair job was botched and had to be redone.
Concupiscence	Strong sexual desire; the novel explored human concupiscence in moral contexts.
Delimit	To set the boundaries of; the treaty delimited the border between the two countries.
Addendum	An additional item added to a document; the report included an addendum with updated statistics.
Esurient	Hungry or greedy; the esurient students devoured the buffet with enthusiasm.
Specious	Superficially plausible but actually wrong; his argument was specious, convincing only at first glance.
Burnish	To polish or enhance; she burnished the silverware until it gleamed.
Magisterial	Authoritative and commanding; the professor delivered a magisterial lecture on Renaissance art.
Ultracrepidarian	Someone who speaks beyond their knowledge; the pundit's ultracrepidarian remarks drew criticism from experts.
Meretricious	Attractive but having no real value; the show's meretricious effects masked a weak plot.
Vagary	An unpredictable or erratic action or occurrence; the stock market's vagaries challenge even experienced investors.
Polysemous	Having multiple meanings; the word "bank" is polysemous, referring to both a financial institution and a riverbank.
Epigram	A witty or clever saying; Oscar Wilde was famous for his memorable epigrams.
Equivoque	Use of ambiguous language to mislead; the diplomat's equivoque obscured the treaty's true implications.
Truism	A statement that is obviously true; it is a truism that water is essential for life.
Occidental	Relating to the Western world; the philosopher compared Occidental and Oriental approaches to ethics.
Atrabilious	Irritable and gloomy; the atrabilious ruler distrusted every adviser, isolating himself from useful criticism.
Bilious	Bad-tempered or sickly; his bilious reaction to minor disagreement revealed deep insecurity.

Rueful	Expressing regret or sorrow; she gave a rueful smile after realizing pride had damaged the friendship.
Inexhaustible	Impossible to use up completely; human curiosity seems inexhaustible when directed toward meaningful discovery.
Oblique	Indirect or not straightforward; the philosopher made an oblique criticism of blind obedience to authority.
Imbibed	Drunk or absorbed; students imbibed the values of skepticism and intellectual rigor from their mentor.
Chastened	Having become more humble or subdued; the failed experiment left the scientist chastened but more careful.
Ebullient	Cheerful and full of energy; her ebullient enthusiasm made difficult research feel rewarding.
Literarily	In a literary manner or sense; the novel succeeded literarily even when it failed commercially.
Malign	Harmful or evil in influence; unchecked propaganda can have a malign effect on public reasoning.
Malign	To speak about someone in a harmful or critical way; rivals falsely maligned the reformer to protect their own power.
Enclave	A distinct area enclosed within a larger one; the immigrant enclave preserved traditions while adapting to a new society.
Heretofore	Up to this point; technologies heretofore considered impossible now shape daily life.
Elusive	Difficult to find, understand, or achieve; true wisdom remains elusive to those seeking easy certainty.
Pericope	A section or passage from a larger text, especially scripture; the scholar analyzed a Gospel pericope to study early Christian themes.
Doxology	A short hymn of praise to God; the congregation ended the service with a solemn doxology.
Poignant	Evoking deep sadness or emotional reflection; the memorial was poignant because it honored ordinary lives forgotten by history.
Unabashedly	Without embarrassment or shame; she unabashedly defended the importance of philosophy in modern education.
Shamelessly	Without shame or embarrassment; the company shamelessly exploited workers while advertising ethical values.

Anthesis	The flowering period of a plant; anthesis marks a crucial stage in the reproduction of flowering species.
Antithetical	Directly opposed or contrasted; scientific inquiry is antithetical to dogmatic refusal to question assumptions.
Guffaw	A loud and boisterous laugh; the audience erupted in a guffaw when the comedian exposed the absurdity of the argument.
Rejoinder	A sharp or witty reply; her rejoinder exposed the weakness in the politician's argument immediately.
Pugnacious	Eager or quick to argue or fight; the pugnacious debater treated every disagreement as a personal battle.
Opine	To express an opinion; scholars often opine cautiously when evidence remains incomplete.
Excoriate	To criticize severely; the journalist excoriated the corporation for prioritizing profit over safety.
Chagrin	Distress or embarrassment caused by failure or humiliation; to his chagrin, arrogance prevented him from seeing the obvious solution.
Regale	To entertain or amuse with stories; the historian regaled students with vivid accounts of forgotten civilizations.
Contrition	Deep remorse for wrongdoing; genuine contrition requires more than apologizing publicly.
Retrograde	Opposed to progress or returning to an earlier condition; censorship is a retrograde response to difficult ideas.
Obscurantist	Opposed to enlightenment or the spread of knowledge; obscurantist movements often fear open inquiry and education.
Slovenly	Untidy or careless in appearance or habits; the slovenly laboratory reflected the researcher's lack of discipline.
Gaudy	Excessively bright or showy; the gaudy palace displayed wealth without refinement or restraint.
Demented	Behaving irrationally due to mental disturbance; the villain's demented obsession consumed everyone around him.
Mirth	Amusement expressed in laughter; shared mirth strengthened the sense of community among the workers.
Limerence	An intense state of romantic infatuation; limerence can distort judgment and idealize another person unrealistically.

Fealty	Loyalty or allegiance; the knight swore fealty to the crown during the ceremony.
Facetious	Treating serious issues with inappropriate humor; his facetious remarks undermined an important discussion on poverty.
Mission Creep	The gradual expansion of a project beyond its original goals; the charity suffered mission creep after taking on unrelated political causes.
Prima facie	Based on first impression or initial evidence; there was prima facie evidence that the documents were forged.
Decadent	Morally or culturally declining through excess; the empire's decadent elite ignored the suffering of ordinary citizens.
Delirious	In an acutely disturbed state of mind or extreme excitement; the exhausted explorer became delirious from dehydration in the desert.
Ad infinitum	Continuing endlessly; pointless online arguments often repeat the same claims ad infinitum without resolution.
Quaint	Attractively unusual or old-fashioned; the village preserved quaint traditions that modern cities had forgotten.
Outré	Unconventional or bizarre; the artist's outré fashion choices challenged social expectations deliberately.
Exhort	To strongly encourage or urge; the teacher exhorted students to question assumptions rather than memorize conclusions.
Promulgate	To officially announce or promote; the government promulgated new environmental regulations after the disaster.
Vacuous	Lacking intelligence or meaningful content; vacuous slogans rarely survive serious examination.
Renege	To go back on a promise or agreement; leaders who renege on commitments weaken public trust.
Scholastic	Relating to schools, education, or academic learning; scholastic discipline helped the student master difficult concepts.
Legitimate	Lawful, valid, or justified; criticism becomes legitimate when supported by evidence and reason.
Temperate	Moderate and self-restrained; a temperate response prevented the debate from becoming hostile.
Premonition	A strong feeling that something is about to happen; she felt a premonition of danger before the storm arrived.

Instantiate	To represent or create a concrete example of something abstract; the engineer instantiated the theoretical model in software.
Verbotten	Forbidden or prohibited; plagiarism is verboten in serious academic work.
Irascible	Easily angered; the irascible editor dismissed criticism before hearing the full argument.
Prognostication	A prediction about the future; economic prognostications often fail when unexpected events intervene.
Ineffable	Too great or extreme to be expressed in words; the astronauts described Earth from space as an ineffable sight.
Commiserate	To express sympathy for someone's misfortune; colleagues commiserated with her after the failed project.
Befuddled	Confused or unable to think clearly; the contradictory instructions left everyone befuddled.
Soupçon	A very small quantity of something; a soupçon of humility can improve even the greatest intellect.
Heuristic	A practical method for solving problems quickly; scientists use heuristics when perfect information is unavailable.
Perfidious	Deceitful and untrustworthy; the perfidious adviser secretly worked against the king's interests.
Propagate	To spread or promote widely; false information propagates rapidly when people share claims without verification.
Timorous	Nervous or lacking confidence; the timorous student hesitated to challenge the flawed argument.
Auxiliary	Providing supplementary help or support; auxiliary staff kept the hospital functioning during the crisis.
Ravishing	Extremely beautiful or delightful; the ravishing landscape inspired generations of painters and poets.
Haunches	The hips and upper thighs of a person or animal; the tiger crouched on its haunches before leaping.
Forbearance	Patient self-control and restraint; true leadership often requires forbearance during provocation.
Enumerate	To mention things one by one; the professor enumerated the causes of the empire's collapse systematically.

Paucity	The presence of something only in small amounts; a paucity of evidence weakened the conspiracy theory.
Incensed	Extremely angry; citizens were incensed by the misuse of public funds.
Indelicate	Improper or offensive in manners or language; his indelicate joke distracted from an important discussion.
Needs must	Necessity requires action despite reluctance; she disliked borrowing money, but needs must during the emergency.
Requite	To repay or return something; he sought to requite kindness with loyalty and hard work.
Derision	Ridicule or mocking contempt; innovators are often met with derision before their ideas gain acceptance.
Aspersions	Damaging or false remarks about someone; the article cast aspersions on her integrity without evidence.
Reconstitute	To form or assemble again; historians reconstituted the ancient text from scattered fragments.
Emissary	A person sent on a special mission; the king dispatched an emissary to negotiate peace.
Irrevocable	Impossible to change or reverse; some technological decisions have irrevocable environmental consequences.
Denigrate	To criticize unfairly or belittle; insecure leaders often denigrate capable rivals.
Mollycoddle	To treat someone too protectively or indulgently; shielding children from all hardship can mollycoddle them emotionally.
Conviviality	A friendly and lively atmosphere; intellectual growth often flourishes in an environment of conviviality and open discussion.
Garish	Excessively bright or showy; the garish advertisements distracted from the seriousness of the news report.
Malignant	Harmful, dangerous, or morally bad; malignant ideologies flourish when fear replaces critical thinking.
Languish	To lose vitality or suffer from neglect; civilizations languish when curiosity and education decline.
Subsumed	Included within a larger category or system; individual freedoms were subsumed under state control.

Scandalize	To shock or offend morally; the novel scandalized conservative readers by challenging social conventions.
Apropos	Relevant or appropriate to the situation; her comment about ethics was apropos during the debate on technology.
Lascivious	Showing strong sexual desire in an offensive way; the director was criticized for lascivious scenes lacking artistic purpose.
Disconcerting	Causing anxiety or unease; the AI's ability to imitate human emotion felt disconcerting to many observers.
Bilk	To cheat or defraud someone; the scammer bilked elderly victims out of their savings.
Cromulent	Acceptable or legitimate; the explanation sounded cromulent even though it lacked depth.
Comports	Agrees or fits well with; true scientific inquiry comports with evidence rather than ideology.
Apportion	To divide and distribute; the committee apportioned resources according to need rather than status.
Denuded	Stripped of covering or protection; deforestation denuded the hillsides and increased flooding.
Bedeviled	Greatly troubled or plagued; the project was bedeviled by poor planning and unclear goals.
Consummate	Complete or showing great skill; she was a consummate musician whose discipline matched her talent.
Aporia	An irresolvable internal contradiction or state of puzzlement; the philosopher ended the lecture in aporia, forcing students to reflect deeply.
Chary	Cautious or reluctant; wise investors are chary of promises that sound too perfect.
Beholden	Owing gratitude or obligation; journalists should avoid becoming beholden to political interests.
Hagiography	An excessively admiring biography; the documentary felt more like hagiography than balanced history.
Fulsome	Excessively flattering or exaggerated; the host's fulsome praise seemed insincere to the audience.
Concomitant	Naturally accompanying or associated; rapid industrialization brought concomitant environmental problems.

Commodious	Spacious and comfortable; the library's commodious reading hall encouraged long hours of focused study.
Waylay	To stop or interrupt someone unexpectedly; reporters waylaid the scientist outside the conference for comments.
Comely	Pleasant or attractive in appearance; the village's comely architecture reflected centuries of careful craftsmanship.
Ad lib	To speak or perform without preparation; the lecturer had to ad lib after the projector failed unexpectedly.
Irreverent	Showing a lack of respect for serious things; the comedian's irreverent jokes challenged social taboos.
Hand-reared	Raised by humans rather than by parents; the hand-reared fox became unusually trusting of people.
Saturnine	Gloomy or morose; his saturnine outlook made every minor setback seem catastrophic.
Unconscionable	Morally unacceptable or unreasonable; exploiting desperate workers for profit is unconscionable.
Unmoored	Detached from stability or certainty; many people feel unmoored in periods of rapid technological change.
Reify	To treat an abstract idea as if it were concrete or real; people often reify economic systems as though they possess independent will.
Apposite	Appropriate or well suited to the situation; her apposite quotation clarified the entire discussion.
Gesticulate	To use expressive hand movements while speaking; the professor gesticulated energetically to emphasize key concepts.
Lock, stock and barrel	Completely or entirely; the company was sold lock, stock and barrel to foreign investors.
Emanation	Something that flows out from a source; kindness can seem like an emanation of inner confidence and discipline.
Sensu stricto	In the strict or narrow sense; the term "science," sensu stricto, excludes purely speculative claims.
Scrupulosity	Excessive concern with moral or religious correctness; his scrupulosity made simple decisions emotionally exhausting.
Bloodied but unbowed	Hurt or weakened but still defiant; the activists remained bloodied but unbowed after years of persecution.

Tyro	A beginner or novice; every expert was once a tyro struggling with fundamentals.
Neophyte	A person new to a subject or activity; the neophyte philosopher approached classic texts with humility and curiosity.
Insidious	Proceeding gradually in a harmful way; cynicism can be insidious because it disguises itself as wisdom.
Peruse	To read or examine carefully; thoughtful readers peruse difficult books slowly to grasp deeper meaning.
Debilitating	Making someone weak or infirm; chronic anxiety can be debilitating when left unaddressed for years.
Rambunctious	Noisy, energetic, and difficult to control; the rambunctious children transformed the quiet classroom into chaos.
Quinquennial	Occurring every five years; the organization conducted a quinquennial review of its long-term goals.
Amity	Friendly relations or peaceful harmony; scientific progress often depends on amity between competing nations.
Venerable	Respected because of age, wisdom, or character; the venerable judge was admired for decades of fairness.
Busywork	Work that keeps someone occupied without meaningful value; education declines when students receive busywork instead of real intellectual challenges.
Glib	Fluent but insincere or shallow; his glib answers concealed a lack of genuine understanding.
Foible	A minor weakness or eccentricity; recognizing one's foibles is often the beginning of self-improvement.
Hippy dippy	Idealistic or impractically unconventional; critics dismissed the environmental movement as hippy dippy before its warnings proved accurate.
Wheedle	To persuade using flattery or coaxing; the salesman wheedled customers into buying unnecessary upgrades.
Bury the lede	To hide the most important point beneath less important details; the article buried the lede by delaying the key revelation until the final paragraph.
Preamble	An introductory statement or section; the constitution's preamble outlines the principles guiding the nation.
Spiel	A lengthy or rehearsed speech, often persuasive; the recruiter delivered the same spiel to every applicant.

Illuminate	To explain or clarify; philosophy can illuminate assumptions people rarely examine consciously.
Illumined	Lit up or intellectually enlightened; the manuscript's illumined pages reflected both artistry and devotion.
Cavalcade	A procession or impressive series of related things; the documentary presented a cavalcade of scientific breakthroughs across centuries.
Scourge	A cause of widespread suffering; corruption remains a scourge that weakens public trust and institutions.
Callous	Emotionally insensitive or cruel; a callous society ignores suffering it finds inconvenient to acknowledge.
Scared straight	Deterred from wrongdoing through fear of consequences; the program aimed to keep troubled youths scared straight through prison visits.
Individuate	To develop into a distinct individual; healthy maturity requires people to individuate from social pressures and expectations.
Screed	A long, passionate piece of writing or speech; his online screed attacked modern technology without offering solutions.
Harrowing	Extremely distressing or painful; survivors gave harrowing accounts of the earthquake's destruction.
Quagmire	A difficult or complicated situation with no easy solution; the war became a political quagmire draining lives and resources.
Archetype	A typical or original model of something; the wise mentor is a common archetype in mythology and literature.
Gratuitous	Unnecessary or unwarranted; the film's gratuitous violence distracted from its deeper themes.
Wanton	Deliberate and unprovoked; the wanton destruction of ancient artifacts erased irreplaceable history.
Superfluous	Unnecessary or excessive; clear writing eliminates superfluous words that weaken precision.
Supererogatory	Going beyond what duty requires; donating anonymously to help strangers was a supererogatory act of generosity.
Boisterous	Noisy, energetic, and cheerful; the boisterous celebration reflected relief after years of hardship.
Veritably	Truly or unquestionably; the library was veritably a sanctuary for curious minds.

Solemn	Serious and dignified; the ceremony had a solemn atmosphere honoring those who died.
Zephyr	A soft gentle breeze; a zephyr carried the scent of pine through the valley.
Rapprochement	The establishment of improved relations; cultural exchange encouraged rapprochement between former enemies.
Intermediary	A person acting between others to help agreement; the diplomat served as an intermediary during peace talks.
Cloying	Excessively sweet or sentimental; constant praise becomes cloying when it lacks sincerity.
Ingratiate	To gain favor through deliberate effort; he tried to ingratiate himself with influential scholars.
Etch	To engrave or impress permanently; the tragedy etched itself into the nation's collective memory.
Sketch	A rough or preliminary drawing or description; Darwin began with a simple sketch before developing his theory fully.
Brazen	Bold and shameless; the company made brazen claims unsupported by evidence.
Svelte	Slender and elegant; the athlete's svelte movements reflected years of disciplined training.
Anemoia (pronounced ah-neh-Moiy-ah)	Nostalgia for a time never personally experienced; many people feel anemoia when reading about ancient civilizations.
Exculpate	To clear from blame or guilt; new evidence helped exculpate the wrongly accused prisoner.
Fulsome	Excessively flattering or exaggerated; the journalist's fulsome praise undermined the credibility of the review.
Doldrums	A state of inactivity, stagnation, or depression; the economy remained in the doldrums after years of uncertainty.
Fugacious	Lasting for only a short time; fame on social media is often fugacious and quickly forgotten.
Any port in a storm	In difficulty, any source of help is acceptable; stranded travelers accepted poor lodging because any port in a storm.
Impecunious	Having little or no money; the impecunious student relied on scholarships and part-time work.
Illustrious	Highly distinguished and admired; the university produced an illustrious line of scientists and philosophers.

Predilection	A preference or special liking for something; she had a predilection for history because it revealed patterns of human behavior.
Revenant	A person who returns after a long absence or seemingly from the dead; the war veteran returned as a revenant to his transformed hometown.
Sunk cost fallacy	The tendency to continue something because of past investment despite future loss; many failing projects survive because leaders succumb to the sunk cost fallacy.
Stultifying	Preventing enthusiasm or progress through dullness or restriction; excessive bureaucracy can create a stultifying workplace culture.
Expiate	To atone or make amends for wrongdoing; he sought to expiate past mistakes through years of public service.
Fecund	Fertile or intellectually productive; the Renaissance was a fecund period of artistic and scientific innovation.
Cachet	Prestige or distinction; publishing in that journal carries significant academic cachet.
Maximalist	Favoring excess, abundance, or complexity; the architect embraced a maximalist style filled with elaborate detail.
Materiel	Military equipment and supplies; the army struggled to transport materiel across difficult terrain.
Furor	An outbreak of public anger or excitement; the leaked documents caused furor across the country.
Pronated	Rotated inward or downward; the therapist explained how his pronated feet affected posture and balance.
Dereliction	Neglect of duty or responsibility; the bridge collapse resulted from years of official dereliction.
Felicity	Intense happiness or the ability to express oneself well; her speech combined intellectual depth with felicity of style.
Polemical	Strongly critical or argumentative; the essay was polemical but forced readers to confront uncomfortable truths.
Repose	A state of rest, peace, or calm; he sought repose in the mountains after decades of political conflict.
Paltry	Insignificant or inadequate; the workers rejected the paltry wage increase as insulting.
Gaunt	Extremely thin and bony, often from hardship or illness; the famine left entire villages gaunt and exhausted.

Wan	Pale and weak in appearance; after weeks of stress, he looked wan and sleep-deprived.
Trite	Overused and lacking originality; the speech relied on trite slogans instead of serious ideas.
Irksome	Annoying or tiresome; repetitive administrative tasks became increasingly irksome to the researchers.
Navel-gazing	Excessive self-absorption or introspection; endless corporate navel-gazing delayed meaningful reform.
Incontrovertible	Impossible to deny or dispute; satellite images provided incontrovertible evidence of deforestation.
Incipient	Beginning to happen or develop; the scientist detected incipient signs of ecological collapse.
Beyond the pale	Outside acceptable moral or social behavior; exploiting children for profit is beyond the pale.
Pish	An expression of contempt or impatience; "Pish," said the professor, dismissing the conspiracy theory immediately.
Harbinger	A sign or warning of something to come; rising temperatures are a harbinger of wider climate instability.
Deplorable	Shockingly bad or unacceptable; the prison conditions were deplorable and violated human dignity.
Ungainly	Awkward or clumsy in movement or appearance; the ungainly machine worked brilliantly despite its appearance.
Malintent	The intention to do harm; investigators found clear evidence of malintent behind the cyberattack.
Found wanting	Judged to be inadequate or insufficient; the safety measures were found wanting after the accident.
Extirpate	To completely destroy or remove; conservationists worked to extirpate invasive species from the island.
Contiguous	Sharing a common border or touching; the contiguous forests supported a stable ecosystem.
Conflagration	A large destructive fire; the library's conflagration destroyed centuries of recorded knowledge.
Mammon	Wealth regarded as an evil influence; the novel portrayed mammon as corrupting both politics and morality.
Exsanguination	Severe loss of blood; rapid treatment prevented death from exsanguination after the accident.

Risible	Ridiculous or deserving mockery; the company's excuse was so risible that even supporters rejected it.
Effectuate	To cause something to happen or bring it about; meaningful reform requires leaders who can effectuate policy rather than merely discuss it.
Recidivism	The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend; education programs in prisons aim to reduce recidivism.
Corral	To gather or confine into one place; volunteers corralled supplies before distributing aid to survivors.
Collocation	A combination of words commonly used together; understanding collocation helps language learners sound more natural and precise.
Facile	Appearing neat or comprehensive only by ignoring complexity; facile explanations often collapse under serious scrutiny.
Ignominious	Deserving shame or public disgrace; the general suffered an ignominious defeat after underestimating the enemy.
Terse	Brief and concise, sometimes to the point of abruptness; the scientist gave a terse answer grounded entirely in evidence.
Whited sepulchre	Someone outwardly virtuous but inwardly corrupt; the reformer condemned the regime as a whited sepulchre hiding cruelty beneath ceremony.
Nescient	Lacking knowledge or awareness; a nescient public is vulnerable to manipulation by demagogues.
Prepend	To add something at the beginning; programmers prepend labels to organize large datasets efficiently.
Unfeigned	Genuine and sincere; her unfeigned gratitude reflected years of hardship and perseverance.
Purpurescent	Becoming purple or purplish; the purpurescent sky signaled the approach of dusk.
On the dole	Receiving government unemployment benefits; many workers were left on the dole after the factory closed.
Gallant	Brave, noble, or courteous; the firefighters made a gallant effort to rescue those trapped inside.
Contravene	To violate or go against; censorship laws often contravene principles of free expression.
Precarious	Unstable or dangerously uncertain; democracies become precarious when institutions lose public trust.

Oikophobia	Dislike or rejection of one's own culture or society; critics accused the writer of oikophobia for dismissing all national traditions as worthless.
Incessant	Continuing without interruption; incessant notifications erode concentration and reflective thinking.
Garden variety	Ordinary or common; the scandal was not garden variety corruption but a systematic abuse of power.
Pithy	Concise yet meaningful; the philosopher's pithy statement summarized decades of reflection elegantly.
Cut of your jib	A person's general appearance or character; I like the cut of her jib because she values honesty over popularity.
Panache	Distinctive elegance or confidence; he delivered the difficult lecture with wit, clarity, and panache.
Pay the piper	To face the consequences of one's actions; societies that ignore infrastructure for decades eventually pay the piper after disasters occur.
Intemperate	Excessive or lacking moderation; his intemperate language weakened what could have been a strong argument.
Abscond	To leave secretly, often to avoid punishment; the accountant absconded with company funds before the audit began.
Vernacular	The ordinary language spoken by people in a particular region; great writers often elevate everyday vernacular into literature.
Extant	Still existing or surviving; only a few extant manuscripts remain from the ancient library.
Bedlam	A scene of uproar and confusion; the stock exchange descended into bedlam after the announcement.
Servile	Excessively submissive or eager to please; a servile press cannot hold powerful institutions accountable.
Supercilious	Behaving as though superior to others; the critic's supercilious tone alienated thoughtful readers.
Pearls and swine	Offering valuable things to those unable to appreciate them; teaching philosophy to people unwilling to think can feel like casting pearls before swine.
Autodidact	A self-taught person; the autodidact mastered mathematics through discipline and curiosity alone.
Sequentially	In a specific order or sequence; scientific discoveries often build sequentially upon earlier research.

Consecutively	Following continuously without interruption; she won the championship three years consecutively through relentless training.
Umbrage	Offense or annoyance; he took umbrage at the implication that expertise was unnecessary.
Eccentric	Unconventional or slightly strange; the eccentric inventor pursued ideas others considered impossible.
Hellacious	Extremely difficult, intense, or severe; climbers endured a hellacious journey through the storm.
Untoward	Unexpected and inappropriate or inconvenient; untoward political interference damaged public confidence.
Sedulous	Showing dedication and careful effort; the researcher's sedulous attention to detail prevented costly mistakes.
Standoffish	Distant and unfriendly in manner; his standoffish behavior concealed deep social anxiety.
Reverie	A state of dreamy meditation or reflection; the old photographs sent her into reverie about lost friendships.
Strange bedfellows	Unlikely allies joined by circumstance; economic crisis created strange bedfellows across opposing political factions.
Unpropitious	Not indicating a good chance of success; the expedition began under unpropitious weather conditions and low morale.
Pearl clutch	To react with exaggerated shock or moral outrage; commentators pearl-clutched over the novel instead of engaging with its arguments.
Pedant	A person excessively concerned with minor details or rules; the pedant corrected trivial grammar mistakes while missing the central idea entirely.
Cavort	To behave in a lively or playful way; the children cavorted through the fountains during the summer heat.
Vestigial	Remaining as a small trace of something once more developed; the appendix is often described as a vestigial organ in humans.
Scuzzy	Dirty, unpleasant, or disreputable; the journalist exposed the scuzzy tactics used by the tabloid industry.
Expede	To accelerate or facilitate a process; efficient communication can expede scientific collaboration across nations.
Prima facie	Based on first impression or initial evidence; there was prima facie proof that the data had been manipulated.

Transpose	To change the position or order of something; historians must be careful not to transpose modern values onto ancient societies.
Diatribe	A forceful and bitter verbal attack; his diatribe against technology ignored the benefits it had brought to medicine and education.
Pulchritudinous	Beautiful; the poet described the night sky in pulchritudinous detail that elevated nature into something sacred.